

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Kotthoff-Weeks Farm Complex

and/or common

2. Location

street & number

not for publication

city, town Hermann ☒ vicinity of

state Missouri code 29 county Gasconade code 073

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Rock Cliff Investment Co., Inc. (Mr. Harry Baumstark)

street & number 2375 Baxton Way or Box 133B, Route 2, Hermann, Missouri 65041

city, town Chesterfield vicinity of state Missouri 63017

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Recorder of Deeds

street & number Gasconade County Courthouse

city, town Hermann state Missouri 65041

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1975 ☒ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D.C.

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kotthoff-Weeks Farm is located in the N 1/2 of the fractional SW 1/4 of section 19, contained in the NE 1/4 of the Morrison Quadrangle. The two major structures on the property are most accurately described by the term Fachwerkbau. As the design and building techniques were inspired by German traditions, this term is preferable to the English equivalent ("half-timbered") which suggests a later application. Such construction consists of a wooden frame, nogged with various materials -- straw and clay, brick, limestone rubble -- and frequently pargetted with lime plaster. Though terminology varies considerably for the structural members, I shall use post to describe the vertical members, nogging pieces to describe secondary horizontal timbers, and strut to describe the diagonal timbers used to brace the posts.

Both the farmhouse and barn were constructed with a similar method. The heavy timber sill was set on a foundation of coursed rubble construction, and the floor beams were mortised into the sill. At the corners, posts extended from the sill to the rafter plate, and were braced with diagonal struts. Intermediate posts and nogging pieces defined window and door openings. The rafter plate was mortised into the continuous posts, and the floor joists for the upper story were notched into this girt. The lower ends of the rafters were then tenoned into the ends of the joists, which were extended about twelve inches beyond the line of the exterior wall. The upper ends were butted at the ridge, and pegged; no ridgepole was used. The rafters are spaced about 36 inches on center. Pairs of rafters were cross braced by collar beams. No metal nails were used in this construction, as all joints consist of a mortise and tenon secured by wooden pegs. These pegs were allowed to extend one or two inches so that they might be driven in when the timbers had seasoned. Evidence of pegs which were not so secured, can be seen in the joining of rafters and collar beams in the house as well as in the framework of an interior wall in the barn. Each timber was carefully incised with a series of Roman numerals (and letters of the alphabet occasionally) in order to identify their relative position in the framework.

The Kotthoff-Weeks farmhouse is probably the largest Fachwerk structure in Gasconade County -- with dimensions of approx. 58 ft. x 26 ft. Two lines of division in the coursed rubble foundation suggest perhaps a plan conceived in three stages, though there is no supporting evidence to imply that the present structure was not completed in a single period. The house is, however, best visualized with such a division. The front doorway, left off center, leads into a hall which extends beyond the boxed-in attic stairs into the kitchen. Steps leading to the full cellar are found under the attic stairs (with an exterior entrance under the front porch). This, the largest of the three sections, contains also a parlor and bedroom. The other two sections each contain two bedrooms. This arrangement appears to preserve the original plan. Though the interior of the house has been neglected, no significant alterations or additions would preclude renovation.

Of the interior details, the stone chimney and fireplace are unique in Fachwerk construction in the area. The fireplace, located on the west wall of the kitchen, has an arched opening with the generous depth necessary for cooking. It has been suggested (as reported by Van Ravenswaay) that this fireplace was part of the original log cabin and was later incorporated into the farmhouse built on the same site. The design suggests rather that it was built in the same period as the farmhouse. (ca. 1850-61)

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The exterior walls were originally covered with weatherboard, with the exception of the east wall, protected by a long porch which extends the length of the primary facade. The cells of the Fachwerk from the sill to the rafter plate were nogged with limestone and well slashed with lime mortar. In the gable ends, however, the framework in the apex was not nogged, but left open and covered with the yellow pine weatherboard. Primary interior walls were also constructed of a timber framework and nogged with limestone rubble (as indicated on floorplan). These interior walls were then covered with a thin coat of lime plaster. This framework is visible in certain areas where the plaster has deteriorated.

The Kotthoff-Weeks barn is a fine example of the Upper-Bavarian type, in which the foundation is of a coursed limestone rubble construction, and the upper section of Fachwerk design. Noteworthy details include the splayed loop holes and segmented arch lintels. This two leveled structure is approximately 90 ft. in length and 30 ft. in width. Centered on the West wall, is a wagon door of two leaves which provides access to the threshing floor of tamped clay. On the same level, to the right of the threshing area, were cattle stalls. One stall is now used as a tackroom, though the addition has not significantly altered the plan. To the left, stalls for horses and a small storage room are found. The second level was used for the storage of hay and grains, with a loft which extends the length of the barn.

Though the Fachwerk design of the barn is similar to the farmhouse, the task of nogging was never completed. Sections of the framework along the sides of the threshing floor and extending into the loft, were filled with limestone rubble and plaster, but this was done in a random fashion. Nor were the exterior walls completed. It would appear that the project was abandoned in this secondary structure, where the pine weatherboard facing (now replaced with a masonite siding) provided sufficient insulation.

- * Two out-buildings are also in evidence. The chicken coop was probably constructed in the 1920's and is of no significance. The smoke house however, is of interest. This log structure has been dated ca. 1842 (i.e. HABS Survey introduction) but I suspect it dates rather from the period in which the house was constructed. The pointed headers over the architrave in both cabin and central section of the farmhouse suggest the same craftsman. I have identified this structure as a smoke house despite the fact that there are no window vents, nor is there evidence of a vent in the weatherboard which originally covered the apex of the gables. I would speculate that the area beneath the eaves, created by the unusually wide projection of the rafters beyond the wall line, was designed without chinking. This would allow adequate ventilation in a structure without windows, and would allow the smoke to dissipate.

The wide gaps between the logs served to facilitate reching after the timbers had seasoned. The type of notching will of course influence the size of such interstices. Here, an unusual combination of V-notching and saddle notching is used. Consistent with the technique of saddle notching is the use of logs in the round (not hewn square), the selection of small diameter timbers, and the projection of timber heads beyond the intersection of wall lines. In this example, however, the top notch is frequently necked in obtuse angles, and fitted into a roughly hewn V-shaped notch in the log above.

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Certain methods of construction are similar to other German inspired log structures in Gasconade County:

1. The ceiling joists are extended through to the wall line, adding stability to other structures.
2. The door is seldom in a gable end and typically off center.
3. The rafters are not joined with a ridge pole, but rather butted at the ridge, and secured with wooden pegs.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1850-61 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Kotthoff-Weeks Farm Complex is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria C and A to wit: That the complex is a particularly fine and intact assemblage of buildings dating from the mid 19th century exhibiting characteristics of Germanic construction techniques including half-timbered house and barn and a horizontal log smokehouse; and that the complex dates from the early period of German settlement in Gasconade County, a significant historical and cultural event in Missouri history.

The history of the Kotthoff-Weeks farm offers an excellent illustration of the settlement pattern in the mid-nineteenth century. It is thus possible to observe the procedures of the Philadelphia Society, the group responsible for organizing the early immigrations in Gasconade County. The Settlement Society of Philadelphia was organized by a group of prominent German merchants who were discouraged by the rapid americanization of the immigrants, and who desired to maintain the purity of German cultural traditions. Their proposed solution was to settle in an isolated area of the new frontier and after considering a number of sites, the Gasconade region along the Missouri River was selected. In 1837 the Society authorized George Bayer to purchase a number of tracts in this region. This original purchase included the area which today forms Hermann, Missouri as well as the site of the Kotthoff-Weeks farm described above. By 1841, the Settlement Society was sufficiently impressed with the thriving colony, that all lands purchased by Bayer were entrusted to the "inhabitants of Hermann". These tracts were then sold to immigrants as they arrived in the area. On July 12, 1842, the citizens of Hermann sold to Bernard Kotthoff, a recent immigrant from Prussia, eighty acres of land for the sum of 180.00. The Fachwerk structures described above do not date from this period, nor is there sufficient evidence to suggest that the smoke house is part of the original log settlement. The major construction probably extends from ca. 1850-1861. This dating is consistent with the methods of construction as well as with the oral history compiled through conversations with a later owner. (Harry Weeks, born ca. 1885). With the death of B. Kotthoff in 1861, the property was willed to his son, Christian. Until 1894, successive owners were related to the Kotthoff family. At this time the property was sold to Rudolf Heitland, though excluded in the purchase was the Kotthoff cemetery (approx. 18 ft. x 18 ft.). In 1905 Heitland sold the property to Albert Weeks. Weeks and his family had emigrated to the United States in 1864 from Amshire England, and settled in Illinois. There he married Bertha Bunge, a second generation German immigrant, and in 1905 Albert and his wife moved to Gasconade County. The Weeks family maintained the property until 1972, when the Rock Cliff Investment Co. (Mr. Harry Baumstark) purchased the farm. Through the kindness of the present owner, Mr. Weeks has remained on the property. Mr. Baumstark has invested a substantial amount in his attempt to maintain the property: The smoke house was reset and chinked, the barn has been recovered with masonite siding as a temporary expedient, the front porch and the rubble foundation have been repaired, and he intends to replace the badly deteriorating weatherboards on the farmhouse this summer. No additions or repairs have significantly altered the original plan.

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The architectural significance of the Kotthoff-Weeks farm is best illustrated through a comparison with German building techniques. The Fachwerk method of construction, in which a portion of the framework was exposed, was never absorbed into the American building tradition. Still, it must be emphasized that in this example (and in each example I have surveyed in the area), there are significant departures from a German prototype. (In fact, I would argue that the differences are more striking in Gasconade County than in German inspired architecture in Wisconsin or Pennsylvania). These Fachwerk structures represent a real synthesis of building types. First of all, it should be noted that it is difficult to decide exactly which prototypes might be relevant, as the variations within Germany are considerable. Charles van Ravenswaay suggests a relationship with the methods of Hesse:

The Missouri houses constructed with heavy timbers, large rectangular panels between the framing, and long diagonal braces, resemble the simpler frame houses found in Hanover and Hesse, from which so many of the settlers in the area had migrated. (p. 147)

Unfortunately, it is impossible to know where the anonymous carpenters and craftsmen originated. But more important, the description above applies equally well to Baukunst in Pomerania (as for example, the Kutherhof in Wismar). Thus neither area nor type can be definitely established. Further, these structures differ in a number of significant respects from such constructions in Europe:

1. There is no evidence to suggest that the exposed timbers were originally painted or stained, though this is a universal European practice.
2. Nor is the use of weatherboard to cover the exterior a German tradition. It has been suggested that the harsher climate in Missouri necessitated such insulation. It remains to be explained then, why similar structures in Wisconsin remained without weatherboards -- in a climate equally inclement.
3. Finally, the long porch which extends across the primary facade is another innovation in building practice.

The Kotthoff-Weeks farm is thus an excellent example of the synthesis of German building techniques and vernacular American traditions. The result is a folk architecture grounded in established European craft traditions, and executed with frontier innovations.

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3. Hansen, Hans Jurgen. ed. Architecture in Wood: A History of Wood Building and Its Techniques in Europe and North America. London: Faber and Faber, 1971.
4. Henning, Rudolf. Das Deutsche Haus in Seiner Historischen Entwicklung. Strasburg: Brubner Verlag, 1882.
5. Perrin, Richard. "A Fachwerk Church in Wisconsin" in Wisconsin Magazine of History. 43, 1960. pp. 239-44.
6. Perrin, Richard. "German Timber Farmhouses in Wisconsin: Terminal Examples of a Thousand Year Building Tradition" in Wisconsin Magazine of History. 44, 1961. pp. 199-202.
7. Perrin, Richard. Wisconsin Architecture: A Catalogue of Buildings Represented in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.: G.P.O., 1968.
8. Phelps, Hermann. Deutsche Fachwerkbauten. Konigstein im Taunus: Langewiesche Verlag, 1951.
9. van Ravenswaay, Charles. The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1976.
10. Rumpf, Karl. Deutsche Volkskunst Hessen. Wien: Bohlau Verlag, 1972.
11. History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford, and Gasconade Counties, Missouri. 1888 (Reprint of Ramfre Press, 1958).

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in as snug a manner as possible that portion of the Kotthoff Farm containing the buildings being nominated. A "buffer" area is not regarded as necessary given the remote rural location of the resources, and no research has been conducted to confirm that the present size and appearance conveys the sense of time and place of the farm's historical setting.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Bek, William, The German Settlement Society of Philadelphia and Its Colony Hermann, Missouri.
2. Erixon, Sigurd. "The North-European Technique of Corner Timbering" in Folkliv. I, 1937. pp. 13-63.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1

Quadrangle name Gasconade

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	2	7	9	0	0	4	2	7	7	0	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification A 100 meter square, its sides oriented north-south-east-west, centered on the above referenced UTM coordinate contains the Kotthoff-Weeks House, Barn and Smokehouse. The enclosed site plan map is not intended to show the National Register boundary; this description is the boundary. It is intended to encompass

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Martin G. Towey, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History

organization St. Louis University date July 15, 1981

street & number 221 N. Grand Boulevard telephone 314/658-2910

city or town St. Louis state Missouri

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

X national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources and
title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

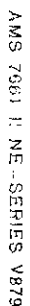
date

Keeper of the National Register

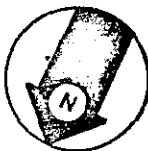
Attest: date

Chief of Registration

A. 15/627900/4277040



SITE PLAN MAP
KOTTHOFF-WEEKS FARM
GASCONADE COUNTY, MISSOURI



NOT TO SCALE

F I E L D

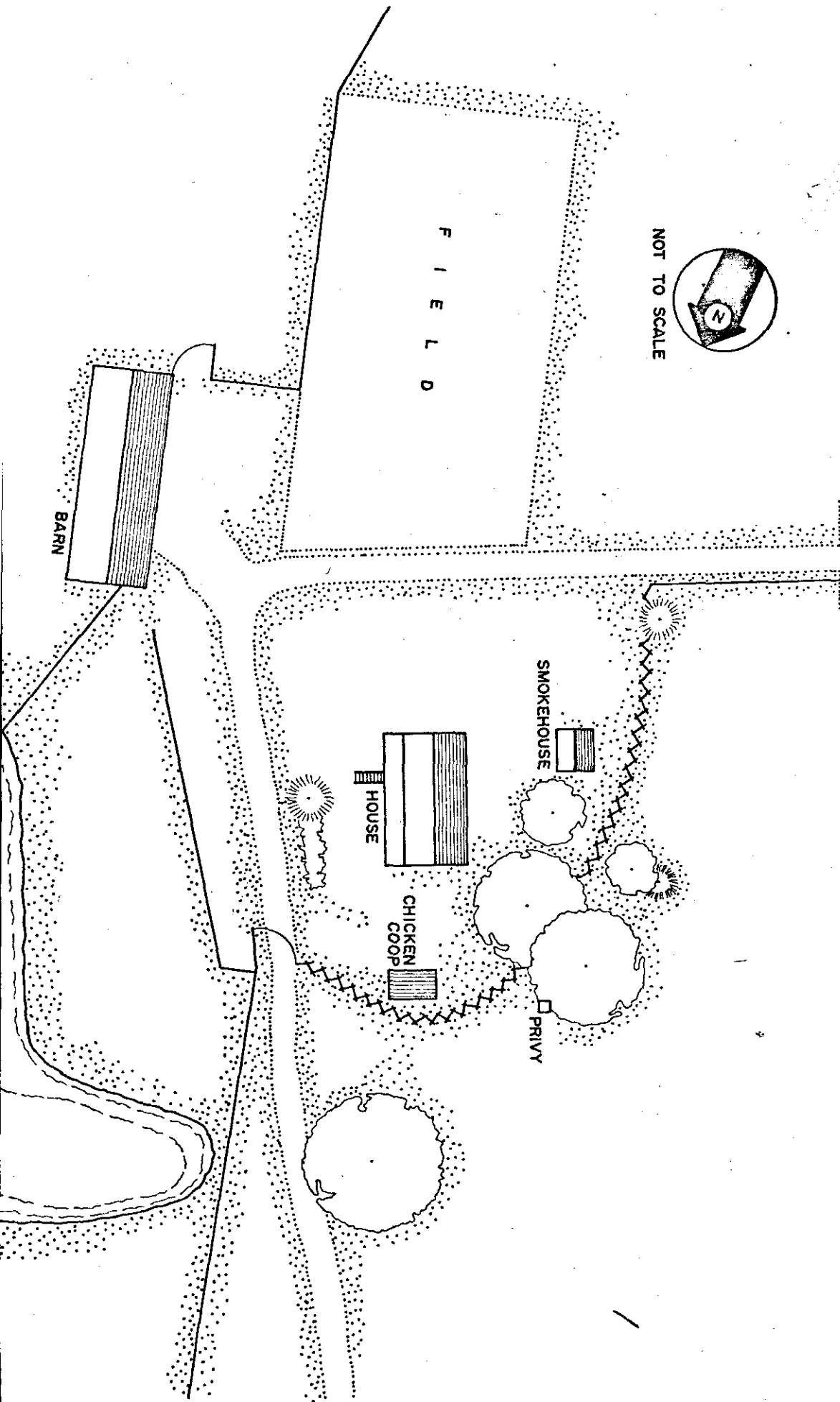
BARN

SMOKEHOUSE

HOUSE

CHICKEN COOP

PRIVY



Kotthoff-Weeks Farm
Gasconade County Missouri

Photographer: Thomas G. Tolles

Date: July 1981

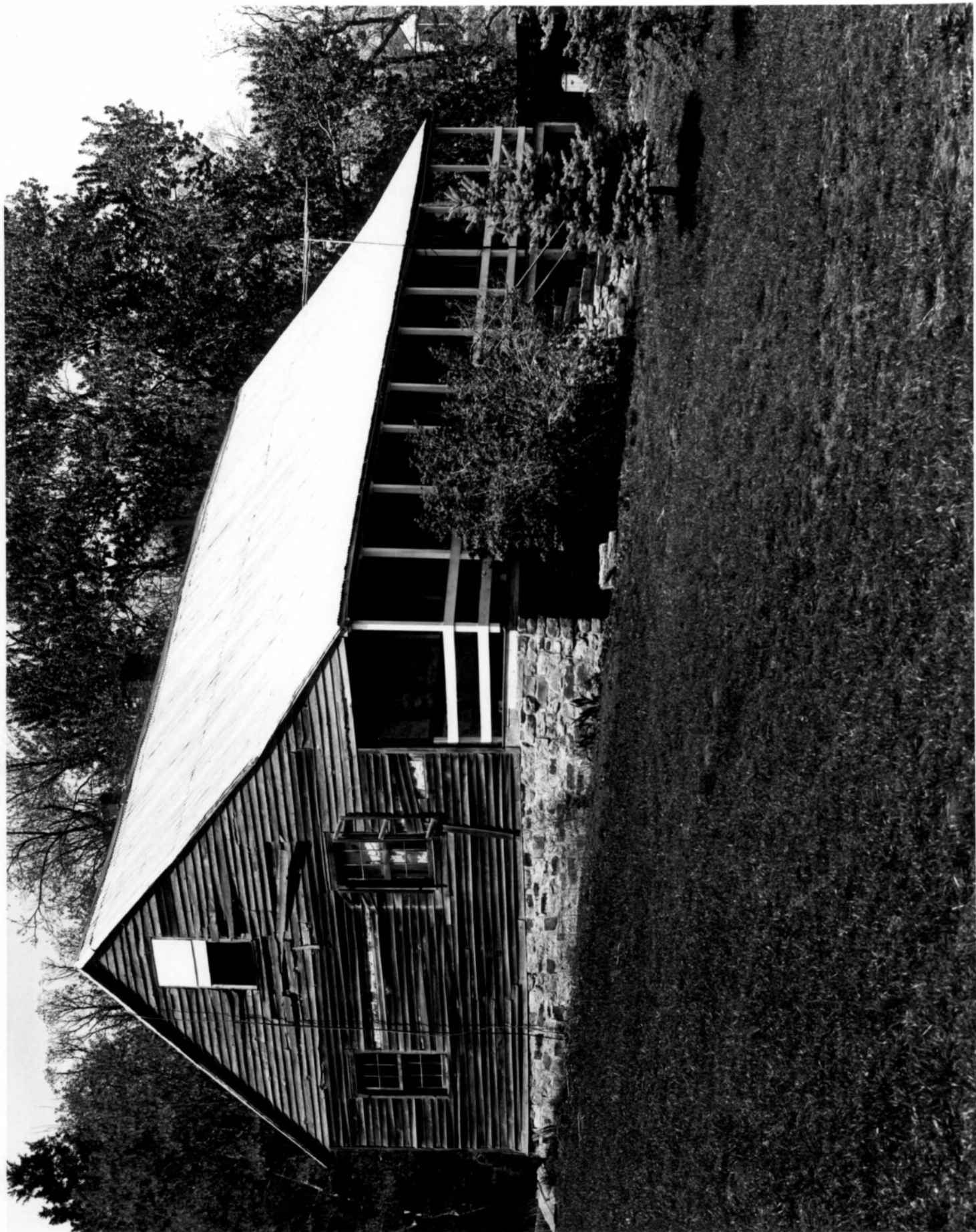
Neg. Loc.: Martin G. Towey

St. Louis University

221 Grand Boulevard

St. Louis, Missouri

House, from the South-East.



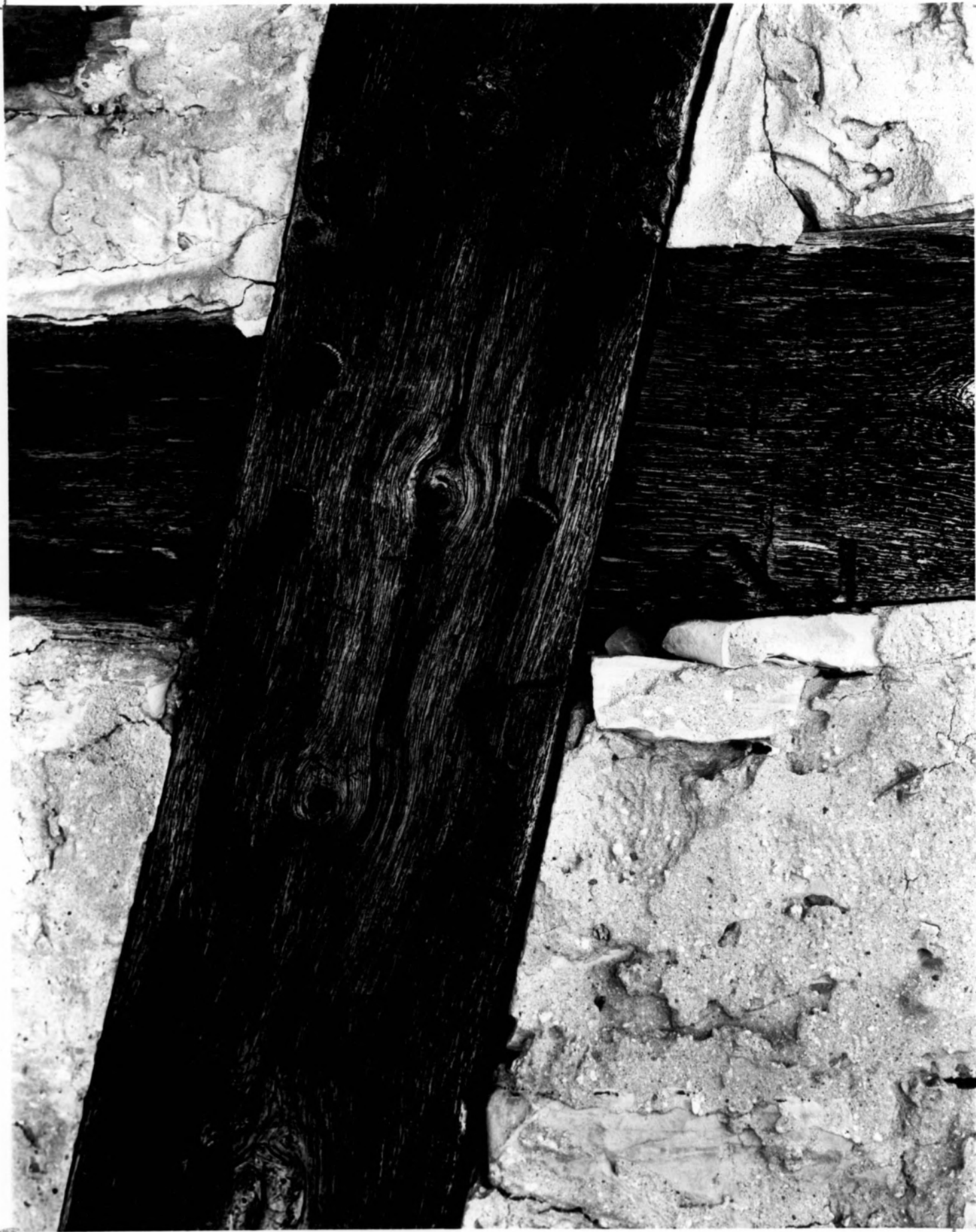
Kotthoff-Weeks Farm
Gasconade County, Missouri

#2 of 10

Kotthoff-Weeks Farm
Gasconade County Missouri

Photographer: Thomas G. Tolles
Date: July 1981
Neg. Loc.: Martin G. Towey
St. Louis University
221 Grand Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri

House, detail of construction of porch
wall. East.



Kotthoff-Weeks Farm
Gasconade County Missouri

Photographer: Thomas G. Tolles
Date: July 1981
Neg. Loc.: Martin G. Towey
St. Louis University
221 Grand Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri

Barn, from the North-West.



Kotthoff-Weeks Farm
Gasconade County Missouri

Photographer: Thomas G. Tolles

Date: July 1981

Neg. Loc.: Martin G. Towey

St. Louis University

221 Grand Boulevard

St. Louis, Missouri

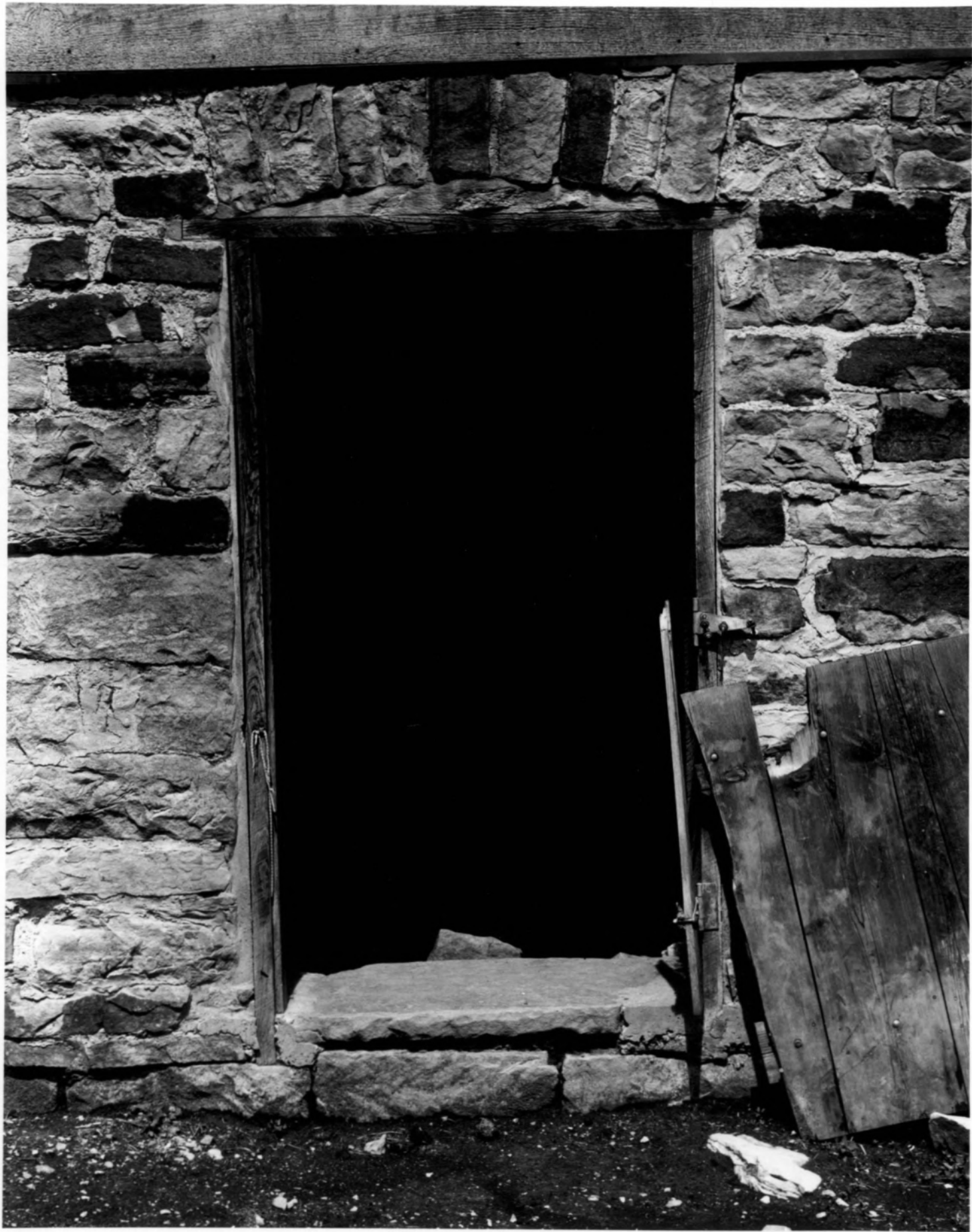
Barn, from the South-East



Kotthoff-Weeks Farm
Gasconade County Missouri

Photographer: Thomas G. Tolles
Date: July 1981
Neg. Loc.: Martin G. Towey
St. Louis University
221 Grand Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri

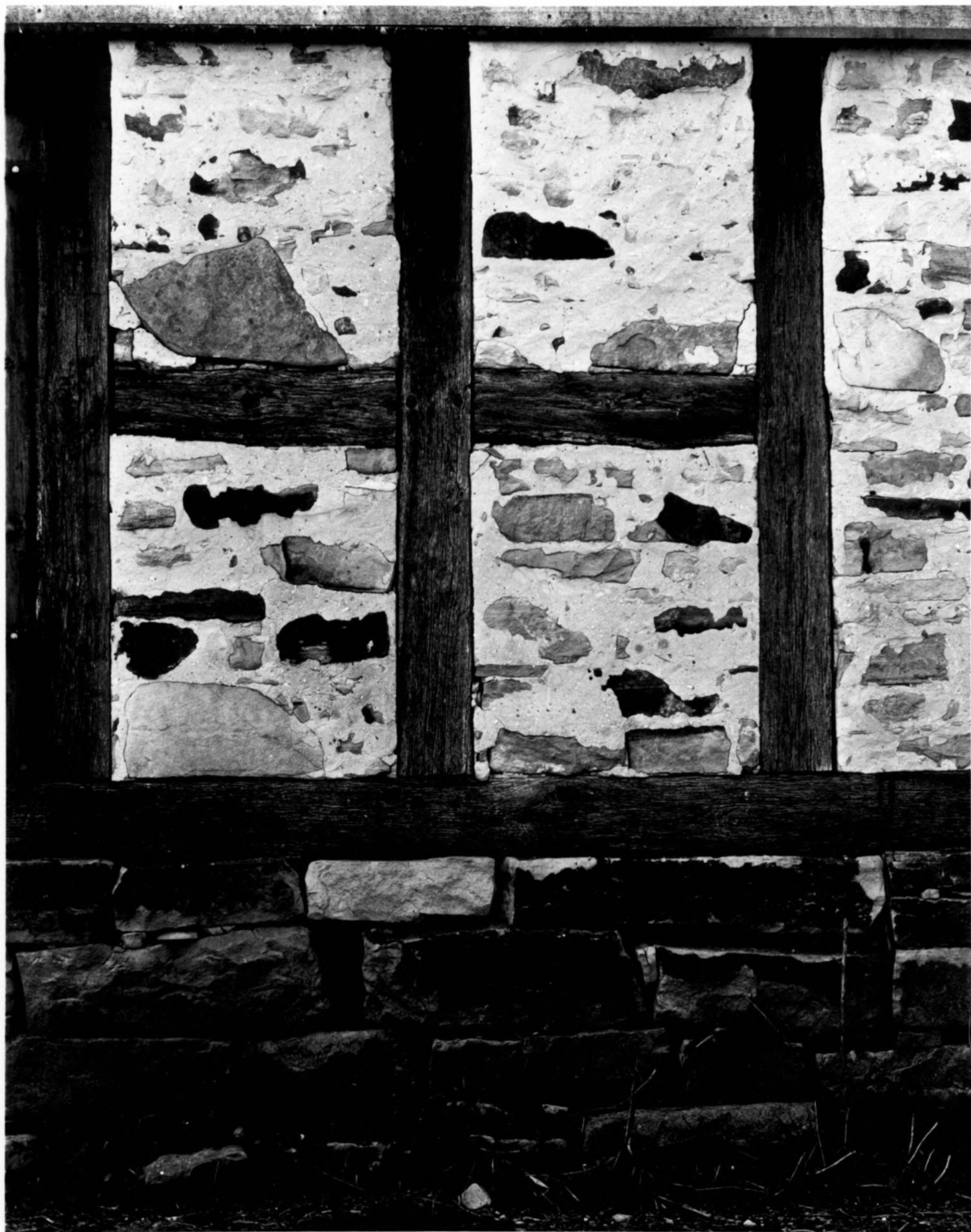
Barn, detail of door and lintel. South



Kotthoff-Weeks Farm
Gasconade County Missouri

Photographer: Thomas G. Tolles
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St. Louis, Missouri

Barn, detail of Foundation and Fachwerk
on East elevation



Kotthoff-Weeks Farm
Gasconade County Missouri

Photographer: Thomas G. Tolles
Date: July 1981
Neg. Loc.: Martin G. Towey
St. Louis University
221 Grand Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri

Barn, detail of construction - threshing
floor and loft. North



Kotthoff-Weeks Farm
Gasconade County Missouri

Photographer: Thomas G. Tolles

Date: July 1981

Neg. Loc.: Martin G. Towey
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St. Louis, Missouri

Barn, detail of construction - Threshing
floor. South



Kotthoff-Weeks Farm
Gasconade County Missouri

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St. Louis, Missouri

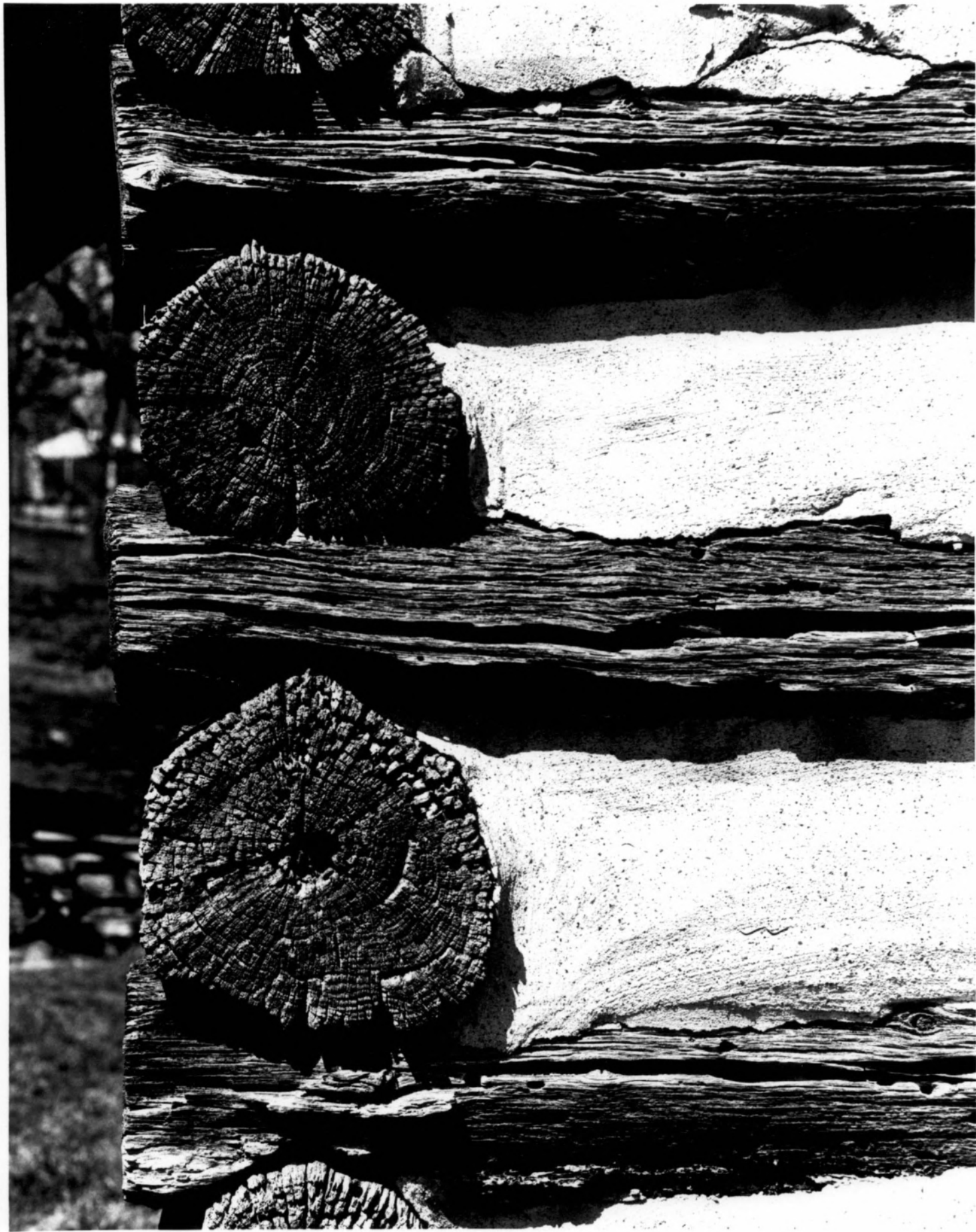
Smoke House from the South-East



Kotthoff-Weeks Farm
Gasconade County Missouri

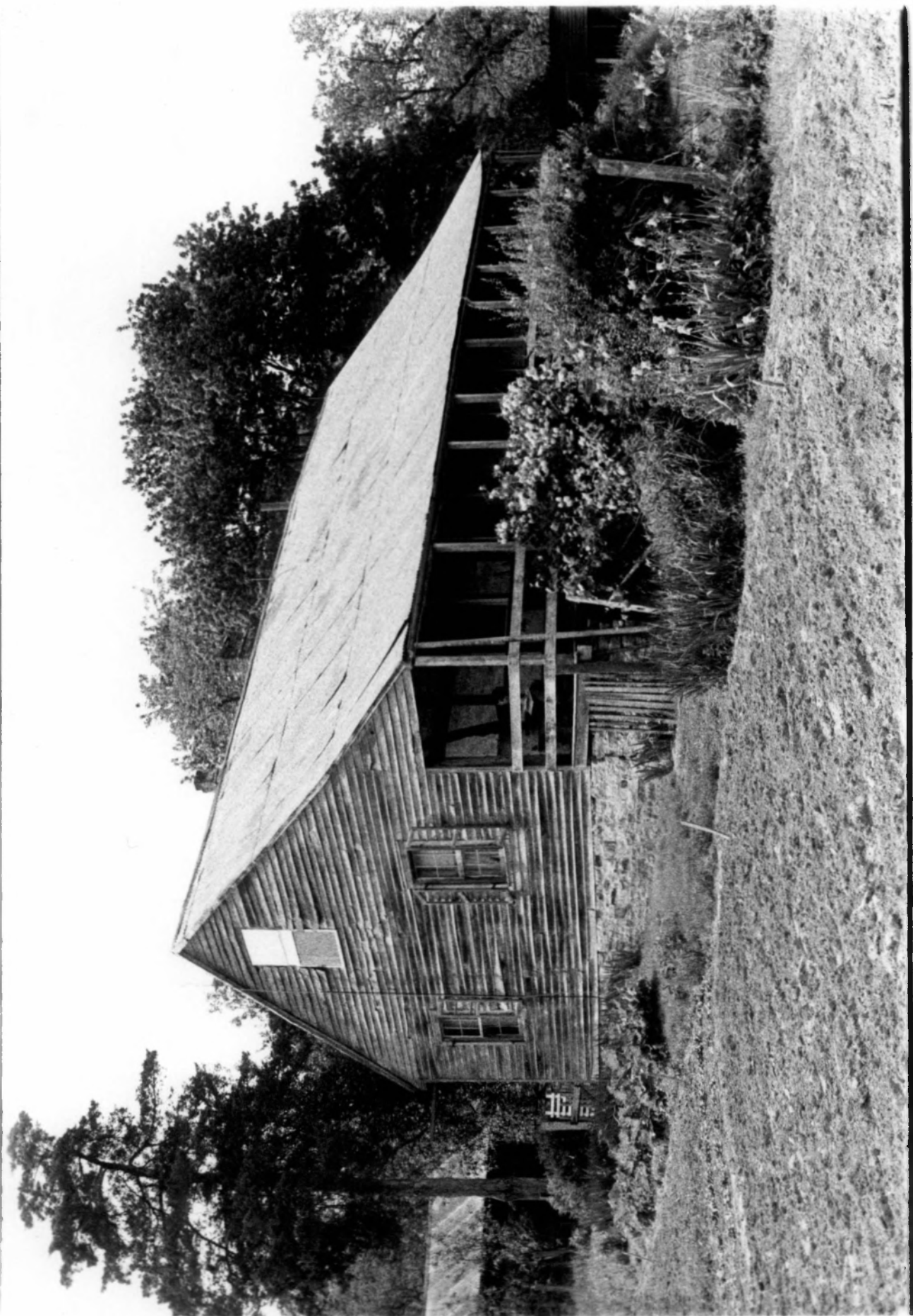
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Date: July 1981
Neg. Loc.: Martin G. Towey
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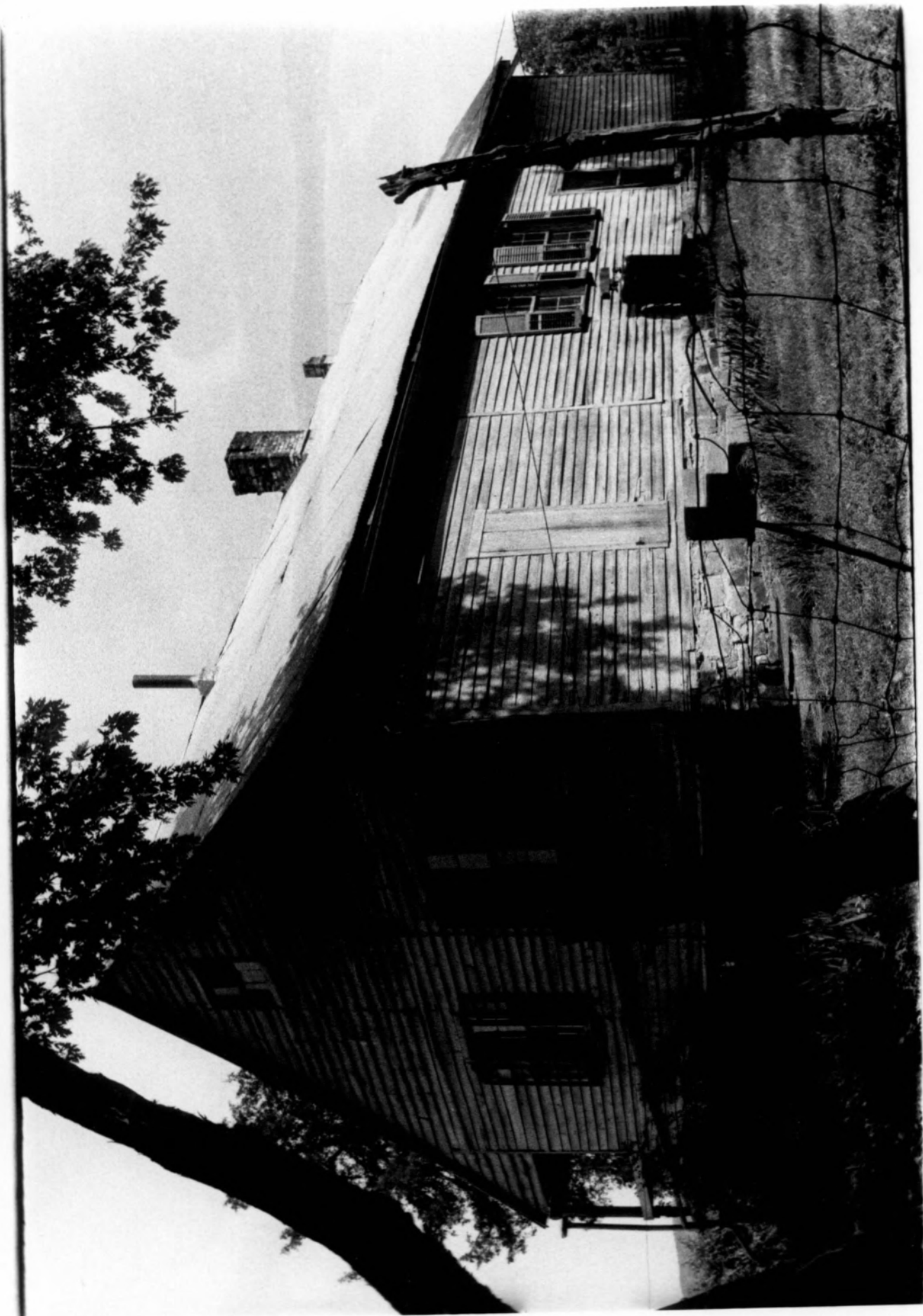
Smoke House, detail of joining technique.
East.



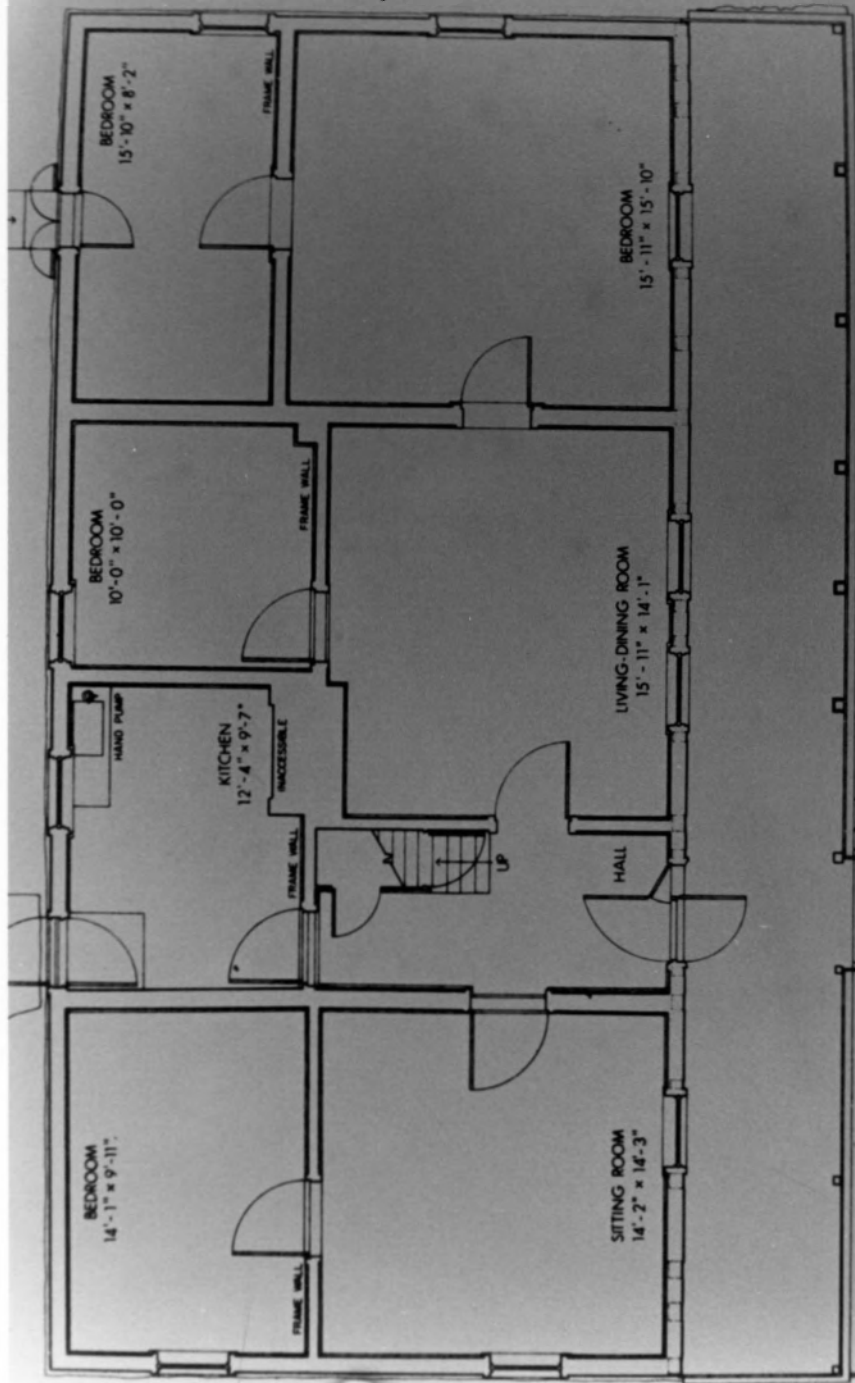
EXTRA PHOTOS







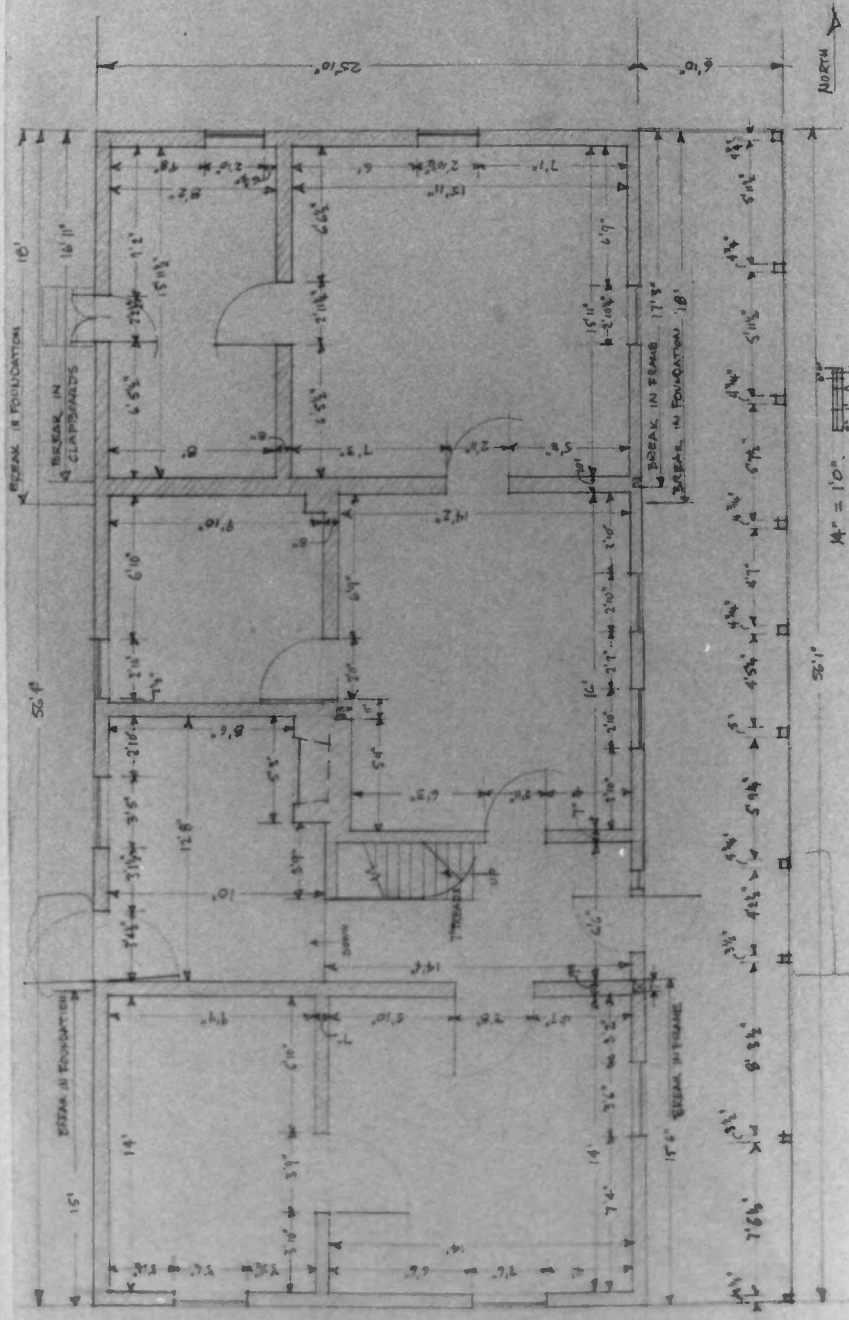




ALL WALLS ARE HALF-TIMBER WITH LIMESTONE NOGGING UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

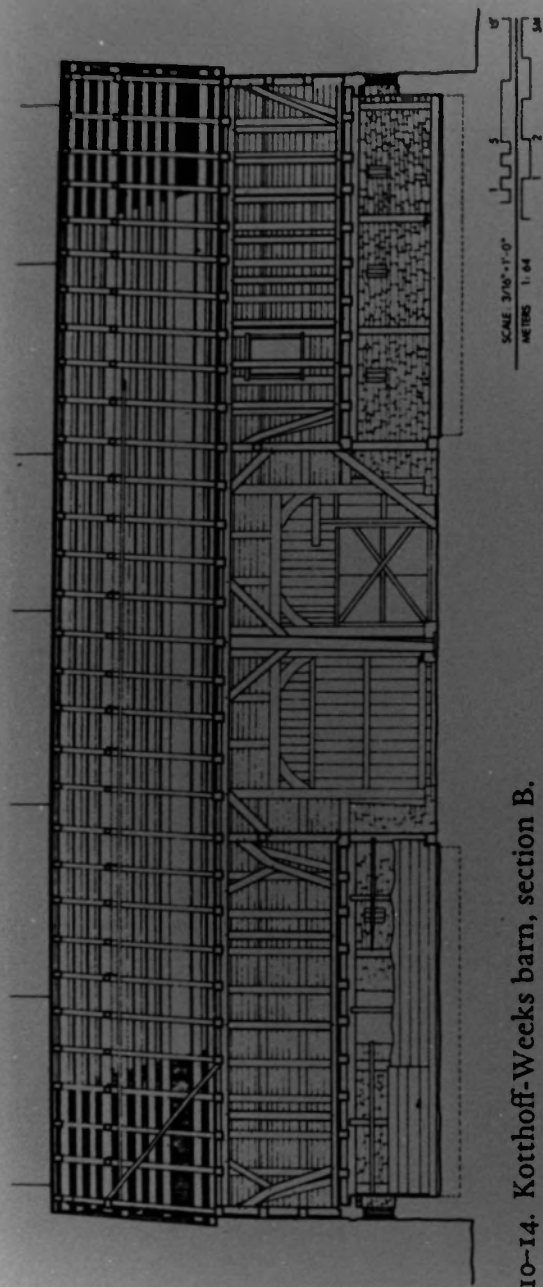
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"
METERS 1:48

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



HARRY WEEKS' HOUSE, HERMANN, MO.
 MEASURED 11, 12 MAY 1972 BY FIVE
 BEGINNERS - CAUTION: THE PAIR WHO MEASURED
 THE SOUTH HALF APPARENTLY INCLUDED DOOR AND WINDOW
 FRAMES IN THEIR MEASUREMENTS. THE NORTH HALF MEASURED
 OPENINGS.

1/4" = 1' 0"
 NORTH



10-14. Kotthoff-Weeks barn, section B.

